United Nations CEDAW/C/1998/II/1

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Nineteenth session
22 June-10 July 1998

Provisional agenda

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2. Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Committee.
5. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
6. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
8. Provisional agenda for the twentieth session.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its nineteenth session.

Annotations

Item 1. Opening of the session

The nineteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General.

Item 2. Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee

According to rule 10 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, new members of the Committee shall make the solemn declaration contained in that rule.

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Item 3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the agenda shall be adopted by the Committee at the beginning of its meetings. Rule 5 provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17 to 22 of the Convention, giving priority to any item the inclusion of which was decided at a previous session of the Committee.

At its eighteenth session, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its nineteenth session.

The Committee has had, since its sixth session, two standing working groups, namely Working Group I, to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee, and Working Group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. At its seventh session, the Committee decided to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that the working groups should be open only to members of the Committee, in accordance with past practice. Specialized agencies and other bodies that could make substantive contributions to questions under consideration by a working group could be invited by the working group to contribute to its deliberations. The working groups will meet during the session.

The proposed organization of work for the session is shown in the annex to the present document.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (CEDAW/C/1998/II/1)

Item 4. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Committee

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided to include an item that would permit the Chairperson to brief the Committee on activities and events occurring since the previous session that had a bearing on the Committee's work.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson attended the 9th meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, the forty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights as well as other meetings related to the work of the Committee. In addition, Ms. Silvia Cartwright, a member of the Committee, participated as a resource person in the deliberations of the open-ended working group of the Commission on the Status of Women on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Item 5. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties to the Convention shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and on the progress made in that respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and more frequently whenever the Committee so requests.

At its eighteenth session, the Committee, taking into account the criteria of preference to be given to those States parties whose reports had been pending for the longest time, the need to give priority to initial reports and the desirability of a balance of reports in terms of geographic and other factors, decided to consider at its nineteenth session a total of 8 reports of States parties drawn from a provisional list of 10. Two States parties were unable to present their reports at the nineteenth session.

At its nineteenth session the Committee will have before it the following reports: the initial reports of Slovakia (CEDAW/C/SVK/1) and South Africa (CEDAW/C/ZAF/1); the combined second and third reports of Nigeria (CEDAW/C/NGA/2-3); the combined second and third reports of Panama (CEDAW/C/PAN/2-3); the combined second and third reports of the United Republic of Tanzania (CEDAW/C/TZA/2-3); the combined third and fourth reports of New Zealand (CEDAW/C/NZL/3-4 and Add.1) and Peru (CEDAW/C/PER/3-4); and the third and fourth reports of the Republic of Korea (CEDAW/C/KOR/3 and CEDAW/C/KOR/4).

A tentative timetable for the consideration by the Committee of the reports of States parties is given in the proposed organization of work (see annex).

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that a representative of a State party shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the report of that State party is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the report. The Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its nineteenth session.

Rule 47 of the rules of procedure provides that at each session the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of the non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. The Committee at its nineteenth session will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1998/II/2).

The Committee decided at its ninth session that a pre-session working group should be convened before each session to prepare questions relating to second and subsequent periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meetings at which their reports were to be considered. The pre-session working group for the nineteenth session is scheduled to meet in New York from 15 to 19 June 1998.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1997/II/2)

Initial report of Slovakia (CEDAW/C/SVK/1 and Add.1)

Initial report of South Africa (CEDAW/C/ZAF/1)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Nigeria (CEDAW/C/NGA/2-3)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Panama (CEDAW/C/PAN/2-3)

Combined second and third periodic reports of the United Republic of Tanzania (CEDAW/C/TZA/2-3)

Combined third and fourth periodic reports of New Zealand (CEDAW/C/NZL/3-4 and Add.1)

Combined third and fourth periodic reports of Peru (CEDAW/C/PER/3-4)

Third and fourth periodic reports of the Republic of Korea (CEDAW/C/KOR/3 and CEDAW/C/KOR/4)

Item 6. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States parties. Rule 48 of the rules of procedure provides that those suggestions and general recommendations shall be communicated by the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to the States parties for their comments.

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to provide, under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to present to the Committee in plenary information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions.

At the same session, the Committee decided to select and to review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties.

At its eighteenth session the Committee agreed to continue to work on a draft general recommendation on women's health (article 12). Members of the Committee would submit written comments on current drafts that would be revised by two members of the Committee, namely Ms. Charlotte Abaka and Ms. Carmel Shalev, in conjunction with the Secretariat, and submitted to the Committee at its nineteenth session. The Committee will have before it the revised draft general recommendation on women's health (article 12).

At the same session, the Committee also agreed that a draft working paper on reservations to the Convention would be circulated to members of the Committee for comments. The draft would be revised by a member of the Committee, namely, Ms. Silvia Cartwright, and submitted to the Committee at its nineteenth session. The Committee will have before it the revised draft working paper on reservations (CEDAW/C/1998/II/WG.II/WP.1/Rev.1).

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented during the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in those areas. The Committee at its nineteenth session will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on that subject (CEDAW/C/1998/II/3 and Add.1-4).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/1998/II/3)

Report of the World Health Organization (CEDAW/C/1998/II/3/Add.1)

Report of the International Labour Organization (CEDAW/C/1998/II/3/Add.2)

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (CEDAW/C/1998/II/3/Add.3)

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (CEDAW/C/1998/II/3/Add.4)

Revised draft general recommendation on women's health (article 12) (CEDAW/C/1998/II/WG.II/WP.2)

Revised working paper on reservations (CEDAW/C/1998/II/WG.II/WP.1/Rev.1)

Item 7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided that the Secretariat should prepare every year, as a pre-session document, a report on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee containing information provided by the Secretariat, comments made by members of the Committee or developments elsewhere in the human rights regime. In view of the fact that the Committee has been authorized to hold two sessions annually, the Secretariat has decided to provide the Committee with a report on ways and means at each session (CEDAW/C/1998/II/4).

The Committee will also have before it the draft rules of procedure prepared by a member of the Committee and discussed at its sixteenth session (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1).

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/1998/II/4)

Working paper containing the draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1)

Item 8. Provisional agenda for the twentieth session

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Committee

Item 9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its nineteenth session

Annex

Proposed organization of work

Monday, 22 June 1998

384th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 1.*	Opening of the session
	Item 2.	Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee
	Item 3.	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	Item 4.	Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Committee
385th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 6.*	Implementation of article 21 of the Convention
	–	Specialized agencies and other United Nations entities
	Item 7.	Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee
	–	Composition of Working Groups I and II and issues for discussion
	–	Working Group of the Whole

Tuesday, 23 June 1998

386th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties
	–	Slovakia, initial report (CEDAW/C/SVK/1 and Add.1)
	–	Introduction by State party's representative
387th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	Slovakia, initial report (CEDAW/C/SVK/1 and Add.1) (continued)
	–	Questions by experts
	Items 6 and 7.	Working Group I

Wednesday, 24 June 1998

388th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	South Africa, initial report (CEDAW/C/ZAF/1)
	–	Introduction by State party's representative
389th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	South Africa, initial report (CEDAW/C/ZAF/1) (continued)
	–	Questions by experts
	Items 6 and 7.	Working Group II

Note. The rooms in which meetings will take place will be indicated in the daily *Journal.*

Thursday, 25 June 1998

10 a.m.	*Items 6 and 7.*	Working Group of the whole (presentations by specialized agencies and other entities on reports of States parties)
3 p.m.	*Items 6 and 7.*	Working Groups I and II

Friday, 26 June 1998

10 a.m.	*Items 6 and 7.*	Working Group of the whole
3 p.m.	*Item 6.*	Working Groups I and II

Monday, 29 June 1998

390th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	Replies (Slovakia)
391st meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
		Replies (South Africa)
	Items 6 and 7.	Working Group I

Tuesday, 30 June 1998

392nd meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	Panama, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/PAN/2-3)
	–	Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
393rd meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	Panama, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/PAN/2-3) (continued)
	Items 6 and 7.	Working Group II

Wednesday, 1 July 1998

394th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	United Republic of Tanzania, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/TZA/2-3)
	–	Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
395th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	United Republic of Tanzania, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/TZA/2-3) (continued)

	Items 6 and 7.	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on initial reports (Slovakia)

Thursday, 2 July 1998

396th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	Nigeria, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/NGA/2-3)
	–	Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
397th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	Nigeria, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/NGA/2-3) (continued)
	Items 6 and 7.	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on initial reports (South Africa)

Friday, 3 July 1998 — No meetings. United Nations Headquarters closed to observe Independence Day holiday

Monday, 6 July 1998

398th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	Peru, combined third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/PER/3-4)
	–	Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
399th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	Peru, combined third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/PER/3-4) (continued)
	Items 6 and 7.	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on subsequent periodic reports (Panama)

Tuesday, 7 July 1998

400th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	Republic of Korea, third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/KOR/3 and CEDAW/C/KOR/4)
	–	Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
401st meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	Republic of Korea, third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/KOR/3 and CEDAW/C/KOR/4) (continued)
	Items 6 and 7.	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on subsequent periodic reports (United Republic of Tanzania)

Wednesday, 8 July 1998

402nd meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	New Zealand, combined third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/NZL/3-4 and Add.1)
	–	Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
403rd meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	–	New Zealand, combined third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/NZL/3-4 and Add.1) (continued)
	Items 6 and 7.	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on subsequent periodic reports (Nigeria)

Thursday, 9 July 1998

10 a.m.	*Item 5.*	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on subsequent periodic reports (Peru and Republic of Korea)
3 p.m.	*Item 5.*	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on subsequent periodic reports (New Zealand)

Friday, 10 July 1998

404th meeting 10 a.m.	*Items 6 and 7.*	Reports of Working Groups I and II
	Item 8.	Draft provisional agenda for the twentieth session
405th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 9.*	Adoption of the report